



By the King.

A Proclamation concerning Felts.



Hereas Wee are credibly informed, That the workers and makers of Felts within this our Realme of England, haue heretofore dayly employed and set on worke many thousands of our pooze subiects, both men, women, and childzen, in carding, basening, felting, dressing, pouncing, blocking, and dying, with certaine other seates concerning the working and making of Felts, made and wrought within and neere our Citie of London, and in diuers and many other Cities, Boroughs, and Townes, within this Our Realme of England, and Principalltie of Wales, Whereby Our said pooze Subiects haue gotten their lining time out of minde, vntill of late yeeres past, that very great abundance of Felts, ready wrought and made in the parts beyond the Seas, haue bene, and now dayly are brought from forraigne parts into this Our Realme, and heere haue bene, and dayly are vttered and sold, to the vtter vndoing of great multitudes of our louing Subiects, who for want of imployment, as heeretofore, in making of Felts, are now destitute of meanes how to liue, and thereby fall to idlenesse, begging, and other inconueniences: We therefore tendering the welfare of Our louing Subiects, doe heereby straitly prohibite and forbid all and euery person and persons whatsoeuer, aswell Our naturall borne Subiects, as Denizens, or Strangers, either directly or indirectly from henceforth to vnschip, discharge, or lay on land any Felts, Hats, or Cappes, wrought, or halfe wrought in any parts beyond the Seas, or in any Port, Hauen, Creeke, or other place, within this Our Realme of England, or Principalltie of Wales, vpon paine of forfeiture of all and euery such Felts, Hats, and Cappes, as shall be so vnshipped, discharged, or laid on land contrary to this Our present Commaundement: The one moytie thereof to be to Us, Our Heires and Successours, and the other moytie to such person or persons as shall finde and make seizure of the same, and also vpon paine of our high displeasure, and such penalties, as by the Lawes of this Our Realme of England may bee inflicted vpon such persons so offending.

And for the better execution hereof, wee doe hereby further charge and command all Customers, Comptrollers, and other Officers of Our Ports, to whom it shall appertaine, and all Farmors of Our Customes and Imposts now and for the time being, their Clerkes and substitutes, That they, and euery of them doe forbear to take any entries of any Felts, Hattes, or Cappes made beyond the Seas, that shall bee brought into this Realme by any person or persons whatsoeuer, and likewise all Iustices of peace, Mayors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Constables, Headboroughs, and other Our officers and ministers whatsoeuer, That they and euery of them be from time to time, and at all times, and in all places conuenient, ayding and assisting vnto such of Our louing Subiects as shall desire their ayde and assistance in and about the searching for, and seizing, and carying away of all or any such Hats, Felts, and Caps, as shall be vnshipped, discharged, or layd on land, contrary to the true meaning of this Our Proclamation, as they and euery of them will answere the contrary at their perils.

Giuen at Our Court at Theobalds, the seuenteenth day of September, in the one and twentieth yere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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